

Measure Up

Spring 2009

Assessment news for fourth-grade teachers



Did You Know?

- **Results from the 2008 long-term trend and arts assessments will be released later this year. They will be posted at <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.**
- **There are sample long-term trend items in reading and mathematics on pages 2 and 3.**
- **NAEP 2010 will include national assessments in U.S. history, civics, and geography.**

The National Indian Education Study

Key Findings

- While nearly 80 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students overall were taught by teachers who identified themselves as White, a higher percentage of AI/AN students in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools than in public schools were taught by AI/AN teachers.
- A higher percentage of students in BIE schools than in public schools were taught by teachers who said they were fluent native language speakers.
- Although nearly 90 percent of AI/AN students overall had teachers who provided instruction entirely in English, a higher percentage of students in high density schools than in low density schools had teachers who reported occasional use of AI/AN language in their instruction.
- A higher percentage of students in BIE schools than in public schools had school administrators who said that students received instruction on a variety of topics related to their native cultures.

The key findings come from the 2007 National Indian Education Study (NIES), a two-part study

designed to describe the condition of education for AI/AN students in the United States. The study is sponsored by the Office of Indian Education (OIE) and is conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics for the U.S. Department of Education. Conducted in 2005, 2007, and 2009, NIES provides data on a nationally representative sample of AI/AN students in public, private, Department of Defense, and Bureau of Indian Education funded schools.

Part I of the NIES provides in-depth information on the academic performance of fourth- and eighth-grade AI/AN students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in mathematics and reading.

Part II of the study was conducted through a survey to explore the educational experiences of the fourth- and eighth-grade AI/AN students who participated in the NAEP assessments. The survey focused on the integration of native language and culture into school and classroom activities and were completed by students, their teachers, and their school administrators.

The full reports (Parts I and II) are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies>.



NOTE: High density schools are those in which at least 25 percent of the students are AI/AN. Low density schools are those in which less than 25 percent of the students are AI/AN.

Source: Moran, R., and Rampey, B., (2008). *National Indian Education Study - Part II: The Educational Experiences of American Indian and Alaska Native Students in Grades 4 and 8* (NCES 2008-458). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.



Long Term Trend: Reading

The long-term trend reading assessment was designed to measure students' ability to locate specific information; make inferences based on information in two or more parts of a passage; and identify the main idea in a passage. The assessment requires students to read and answer questions based on a variety of materials, including informational passages,

literary texts, and documents. Students' comprehension of these materials is assessed with both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions. The set of reading passages and questions included in the trend assessments has been kept essentially the same since 1984. See below for sample questions and 2004 performance results for 9-year-olds.

Question 1: 42% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, C.

Question 2: 68% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, D.

Question 3: 68% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, A.

Question 4: 65% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, B.

1. Read the sentences in the paragraph below and choose the sentence that does NOT belong with the others.

Colorado is a western state with many mountains. Colorado has more than 1,000 peaks two miles high. Gold was discovered in Colorado in 1859. A total of 54 of the 69 highest mountains in the United States are in Colorado.

- A) Colorado is a western state with many mountains.
- B) Colorado has more than 1,000 peaks two miles high.
- C) Gold was discovered in Colorado in 1859.
- D) A total of 54 of the 69 highest mountains in the United States are in Colorado.

Read the newspaper advertisement and answer questions 2-4.

WANTED

Persons interested in earning between \$35 and \$45 per month delivering the Post newspaper. Help needed in most areas. Papers delivered to your home between 5 and 6 a.m.

Requirements for News Carrier:

- 1. Must be at least nine years old.
- 2. Must be reliable.
- 3. Must deliver all papers by 7 a.m., 7 days a week.
- 4. Must take collections during the last days of every month.

If you can meet these requirements, call 584-3640 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. through 4 p.m. Ask for the Circulation Department.

2. According to the advertisement, what would you do if you are interested in the job and meet the requirements?

- A) Apply in person at the Post.
- B) Write the Post for a job application form.
- C) Wait for the openings to be published in the Post.
- D) Call the Post Circulation Department.

3. David and Mary are both reliable eight year olds and have applied for the job. What will probably happen?

- A) They will not get the job because they are too young.
- B) They will get the job since they are reliable.
- C) They will not get the job unless they have bicycles.
- D) They might get the job if they can work at the right times.

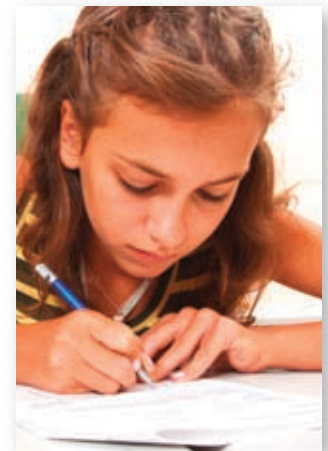
4. By what time must the news carrier deliver all the papers?

- A) By 6 every morning.
- B) By 7 every morning.
- C) By 8 every morning, except weekends.
- D) By 7 every evening.

Long Term Trend: Mathematics

The long-term trend mathematics assessment was designed to measure students' knowledge of basic facts; ability to carry out numerical algorithms using paper and pencil; knowledge of basic measurement formulas as they are applied in geometric settings; and ability to apply mathematics to daily-living skills (such as those related to time and money). The assessment has a computational focus and contains a range of multiple-choice and constructed-response questions. It covers the following topics: numbers and numeration; measurement; shape, size, and position; variables and relationships; and

mathematical application, knowledge, skills, and understanding. The mathematics trend assessments contain questions designed to measure performance on sets of objectives developed by nationally representative panels of mathematics specialists, educators, and other interested parties. Although some changes were made from assessment to assessment prior to 1990, some questions were retained from one assessment to the next to measure trends in achievement over time. See below for sample questions and performance results for 9-year-olds in 2004.

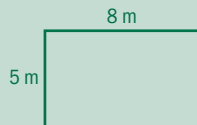


1. Which is worth the most?

- A) 35 pennies
- B) 1 quarter
- C) 4 dimes

2. What is the PERIMETER of this rectangle?

- A) 13 meters
- B) 26 meters
- C) 40 meters
- D) 80 meters



3. A school bicycle rack holds 18 bicycles. There are 12 bicycles already in the rack. How many more bicycles can be put in the rack?

Answer _____

$$\begin{array}{r} 4. \quad 59 \\ \quad 46 \\ \quad 82 \\ \hline \quad +68 \end{array}$$

Answer _____

$$\begin{array}{r} 5. \quad 314 \\ \quad \times 12 \end{array}$$

Answer _____

Question 1: 77% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, C.

Question 2: 51% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, B.

Question 3: 77% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, 6.

Question 4: 57% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, 255.

Question 5: 20% of 9-year-olds gave the correct response, 3,768.

**NAEP 2009
reading results
will be released
in 2010.**

- To use released long-term trend questions in the classroom, teachers should visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard> and select "Sample Questions."
- From there, teachers can select "Search Options" and "Long-Term Trend Questions," followed by the subject and age 9. A series of questions will appear and teachers can review the questions, sample student responses, and performance data for students nationwide.

What is The Nation's Report Card™ ?

The Nation's Report Card™ informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

For more than three decades, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. By collecting and reporting information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement and relevant variables is collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected, and the identities of participating schools are not released.

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Access specific results for a grade level, subject, jurisdiction, and/or student groups	The NAEP Data Explorer at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata
Find information regarding the types of questions used on NAEP assessments or view subject-specific questions	The NAEP Questions Tool at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls
Download a Sample Questions Booklet that contains sample test questions for the upcoming and previous assessments	The National Center for Education Statistics at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/booklets.asp
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